

4. The device of claim 3 wherein the retractor support has a plurality of apertures and the attaching mechanism has an aperture engaging member for engaging one of the apertures.

5. The device of claim 4 wherein the aperture engaging member has a plurality of resilient fingers that are insertable into the one of the apertures to engage surfaces of the one aperture.

6. The device of claim 5 wherein the fingers define a bore and the attaching mechanism has a peg movable within the bore and wherein the peg moves the resilient fingers in an outwardly radial direction to engage surfaces of the aperture.

7. The device of claim 1 wherein the loop includes a flexible cord fixedly attached to the main body at a first end and detachably attached to the main body at a second end such that the length of the loop is adjustable.

8. The device of claim 7 wherein the main body includes a V-type slot and wherein the second end of the loop is engageable within the V-type slot such that the second end of the cord is detachably attached to the main body.

9. A retractor support for retaining a retractor in a retraction position within a surgical wound, the support comprising:

a support member positioned near the surgical wound; and

a flexible loop detachably attached at least at one end to the support member and engaging a proximal end of the retractor such that the retractor is retained in the retraction position.

10. The support of claim 9 wherein the flexible loop is attached such that the loop may be adjusted in size for engaging the proximal end of the retractor.

11. The support of claim 9 and further including an attaching mechanism that engages and attaches the flexible loop to the support member.

12. The support of claim 11 wherein the support member has a plurality of apertures and the attaching mechanism has an aperture engaging member for engaging one of the apertures.

13. The support of claim 12 wherein the aperture engaging member has a plurality of resilient fingers extending into one of the apertures and engaging surfaces of the one of the apertures.

14. The support of claim 13 wherein the fingers define a bore and the attaching mechanism has a peg movable within the bore and wherein the peg moves the resilient fingers in an outwardly radial direction to engage surfaces of the aperture.

15. The support of claim 11 wherein the loop includes a flexible cord fixedly attached to the attaching mechanism at a first end and detachably attached to the attaching mechanism at a second end such that the length of the loop is adjustable.

16. The device of claim 7 wherein the attaching mechanism includes a V-type slot and wherein the second end of the loop is engageable within the V-type slot such that the second end of the cord is detachably attached to the attaching mechanism.

17. A retraction device comprising:  
a retractor support member for positioning near a surgical wound;  
a retractor having a proximal end and a distal end, the distal end for insertion into the surgical wound; and  
a flexible loop secured to the retractor support member for engaging the proximal end of the retractor in a manner that retains the retractor in a retraction position within a surgical wound.

18. The device of claim 17 wherein the flexible loop is attached such that the loop may be adjusted in size for engaging the proximal end of the retractor.

19. The device of claim 17 and further including an attaching mechanism that engages and attaches the flexible loop to the retractor support.

20. The device of claim 19 wherein the retractor support has a plurality of apertures and the attaching mechanism has an aperture engaging member for engaging one of the apertures.

21. The device of claim 20 wherein the aperture engaging member has a plurality of resilient fingers extending into the one of the apertures and engaging surfaces of one of the apertures.

22. The device of claim 21 wherein the fingers define a bore and the attaching mechanism has a peg movable within the bore and wherein the peg moves the resilient fingers in an outwardly radial direction to engage surfaces of the aperture.

23. The device of claim 17 wherein the loop includes a flexible cord fixedly attached to the attaching mechanism at a first end and detachably attached to the attaching mechanism at a second end such that the length of the loop is adjustable.

24. The device of claim 23 wherein the attaching mechanism includes a V-type slot and wherein the second end of the loop is engageable within the V-type slot such that the second end of the cord is detachably attached to the attaching mechanism.

25. A method of holding a surgical retractor in a retraction position within a surgical wound, the method comprising:

providing a support member near the surgical wound;

inserting a distal end of a retractor within the surgical wound and manually

positioning the retractor in the retraction position; and

securing the retractor in the retraction position by engaging a proximal end of the retractor with a flexible loop that is attached to the support member

26. The method of claim 25 and further comprising:  
adjusting the size of the loop by disengaging one end of the loop from the support member and re-engaging the loop to the support member with a different loop length.
27. The method of claim 26 wherein the loop is engaged or disengaged by engaging a V-shaped slot.
28. The method of claim 25 wherein the loop is positioned around the proximal end of the retractor.
- 29.(New) A method of retaining a surgical retractor in a selected position within a surgical wound, the method comprising:  
providing a support member near the surgical wound;  
securing a retractor retaining device having a flexible strap attached thereto onto the support member;  
positioning a distal end of the surgical retractor within the surgical wound;  
manually retracting the surgical retractor into the selected position; and  
securing the surgical retractor in the selected position by engaging a proximal end of the surgical retractor with the flexible strap.
- 30.(New) The method of claim 29 and further comprising:  
retaining a first end of the flexible strap in a fixed position;  
manipulating a second free end of the flexible strap to adjust a length of the flexible strap; and

securing a mid-portion of the loop within a V-shaped slot within the retractor retaining device by a frictional engagement wherein the frictional engagement retains the hand held retractor in the selected position.

31.(New) The method of claim 30 and further comprising:  
disengaging the mid portion of the flexible strap from the V-shaped slot;  
adjusting a position of the surgical retractor into a second selected position;  
manipulating the second end of the flexible loop to engage the proximal end of the surgical retractor with the loop; and  
securing the mid portion of the loop within the V-shaped slot to retain the surgical retractor in the second selected position by a frictional engagement of the loop with the V-shaped slot.

32.(New) The method of claim 29 and further comprising:  
disposing a plurality of resilient fingers extending from a main body of the retractor retaining device within an aperture in the support arm, wherein the plurality of resilient fingers define a bore;  
disposing a peg within the bore; and  
positioning the peg into an engaging position such that the resilient fingers are forced in an outwardly radial direction to engage the peg.

33.(New) A method of reducing the number of personnel required to perform a surgical procedure, the method comprising:  
providing a support member near a surgical wound;  
securing a retractor retaining device having a flexible loop attached thereto onto the support member;  
positioning a distal end of a hand held retractor within the surgical wound;  
manually retracting the surgical retractor in a selected position; and

securing the surgical retractor into the selected position by engaging a proximal end of the surgical retractor with the flexible loop wherein the retractor retaining device retains the surgical retractor in the selected position without aid from the personnel.

34.(New) The method of claim 33 and further comprising:  
retaining a first end of the flexible loop in a fixed position;  
manipulating a second free end of the flexible loop to adjust a length of the flexible loop; and  
securing a mid-portion of the loop within a V-shaped slot within the retractor retaining device by a frictional engagement to retain the surgical retractor in the selected position.

35.(New) The method of claim 34 and further comprising:  
disengaging the mid portion of the flexible loop from the V-shaped slot;  
adjusting the position of the surgical retractor into a second selected position;  
manipulating the second end of the flexible loop to engage the proximal end of the surgical retractor with the loop; and  
securing the mid portion of the loop within the V-shaped slot to retain the surgical retractor in the second selected position by a frictional engagement of the loop with the V-shaped slot.

36.(New) The method of claim 33 and further comprising:  
disposing a plurality of resilient fingers extending from a main body of the retractor retaining device within an aperture in the support arm, wherein the plurality of resilient fingers define a bore;  
disposing a peg within the bore defined by the resilient fingers; and  
positioning the peg into an engaging position such that resilient fingers are forced in an outwardly radial direction to engage the peg.